

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMOND  
J. MAGNARELLI

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a consummate gentleman and a terrific ambassador for the central New York community, the Honorable Armond J. Magnarelli, who passed away last weekend.

A teacher by trade at Lyncourt School, Armond entered elected office as a member of the Syracuse City School District Board of Education, eventually rising to become its president. Armond later ran for and won a seat on the Syracuse City Council and was elected council president, serving until 1985. His public service career also included service in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II.

Mr. Magnarelli worked as a marketing executive at KeyBank and later as regional director of the State parks and recreation. He was a member of the New York State Council of the Arts, New York State Draft Board, board of directors of P.E.A.C.E., Inc., and board of directors of the Syracuse Chiefs baseball team.

He was inducted into the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame and the Oswego State Athletic Hall of Fame at his alma mater. In 1950 and 1951, he coached the boys of St. Lucy's to back-to-back parochial league basketball championships.

Regardless of his position and his workload, Armond's heart never ventured far from his native northside of Syracuse. He was a member of the Our Lady of Pompei Holy Name Society for 50 years, served on its parish council, and was active in the fundraising and building of the new parish school in 1966.

Armond was a member of the Italian American Athletic Club and was well-known for his longtime work in local theater and the arts, including the famed Pompeian Players, Salt City for the Performing Arts, and Theater 90. When new development threatened the future of the Landmark Theatre in downtown Syracuse, it was Armond who stepped in to save the treasure facility.

Though retired, Armond kept busy through many civic activities, and up until recently, central New Yorkers could still visit with Armond every Sunday morning as he hosted the popular "Italian Hour" on WFBL radio.

Armond Magnarelli was a prince of a man who dedicated himself to his family, his community, and his passion for living. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT R. FARIAS

**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vincent Farias. On February

21, 2008 Mr. Farias will be celebrated for his contributions to Burlington County at the Burlington County Republican Committee and Burlington County Republican Women's Annual Lincoln Day Dinner.

Perhaps one of the most gregarious and enthusiastic Edgewater Park residents, Vince Farias was always a proponent of action leading to results. A veteran schoolteacher, banker, and small business owner, Vincent served 6 years on the Edgewater Park Township Committee and as mayor in 1987 and 1991.

After first filling a vacant freeholder seat in 1991, Vince went on to serve 5 terms as a member of the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders. During that time, Vince was an advocate for the county's open space preservation work and redevelopment plans. One of his most notable projects included the creation and implementation of the NJ Transit Riverline Light Rail system, which made its debut in 2004. Since then, it has had a positive ripple effect on surrounding businesses and residential communities along the Delaware River.

Vince was also instrumental in creating the county's Veterans Military Service Medal. Through this project, several military assistance programs have been developed to help aid our area veterans.

In addition, Vince worked with the South Jersey Freeholder's Association and the New Jersey Association of Counties, where he served as president in 2002. Vince has also worked with the American Red Cross and the March of Dimes.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for his leadership, commitment, and service to the public.

HONORING THE COCKE COUNTY  
NAVAL JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS'  
TRAINING CORPS

**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cocke County Naval Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC) program for their achievements this past year. In 2007, the Cocke County NJROTC program was ranked number one in the State of Tennessee and number six in the United States in competitions including academics, athletics, and military drill.

In addition to achieving such great accolades in competitions, the Cocke County NJROTC planned, coordinated, and completed 2,153 community service hours in the Cocke County, Hamblen County and Knox County areas during the 2006–2007 school year.

The Cocke County NJROTC is a citizen leadership program designed to develop informed and responsible young men and women who embody honor, self-reliance, self-

discipline, and respect to authority in a democratic society.

This achievement is a true honor to all the young men and women involved in the Cocke County NJROTC program. The rankings, each respectively, show the dedication and commitment to service and our Nation.

It is exciting for me to see the young men and women of Cocke County NJROTC establishing such high standards at a young age and it bestows great promise for the State of Tennessee and our Nation alike.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in honoring the Cocke County NJROTC program for their commitment to excellence, dedication, and promise as future leaders of America.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ROCCO S.  
OLIVERIO, JR.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and honor of Rocco S. Oliverio, Jr. He was a beloved member of his west Cleveland neighborhood, and was known for his dedication to the community. He served Ward 14 as a representative to the Cuyahoga County Central Committee with honor and distinction, and touched those around him with his unique sense of humor.

Rocco was never afraid to get involved and confront the challenges of his home neighborhood. He maintained his faith in the innate goodness of people and the ability of community and public services to overcome challenges. He invested a large part of himself in everything he did and was always genuinely interested in helping; even better, he often had a solution.

Rocco is fondly remembered by his daughters, Shellie Gay and Sheila Hall-Blagg, and his eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Rocco S. Oliverio, Jr., a man whose tireless work towards improving his hometown of Cleveland will set an example for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPION  
NEW YORK GIANTS FOR WINNING  
SUPER BOWL XLII

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to throw the full weight of my endorsement behind a resolution of substantial import and consequence: that New York's championship

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

football team be congratulated and honored for its come-from-behind Super Bowl win last week, one that left the sports world simultaneously stunned and elated.

The competition was formidable and the challenge facing the Giants daunting. Experts did not give the Giants much chance of prevailing and the odds-makers in Las Vegas made them 12-point underdogs. The New England Patriots represented a veteran squad of impressive offensive muscle, strolling onto the field with a historic perfect season and an expected fourth championship within its grasp. But the New York Giants proved resilient. Eli Manning led the way, charging down the field with a 12-play, 83-yard drive that capitalized on the great skill of David Tyree, Brandon Jacobs, Steve Smith, and Plaxico Burress.

This upset was no ordinary win. Facing a team dead set on making history, the G-men blazed a trail of their own, becoming the first NFC wild card team to win a Super Bowl. Theirs is a story of unparalleled heart and inspiration, of surpassing expectations and securing triumph in the face of all odds. Theirs is an American story, and they have accordingly ascended from being New York's team to being America's team.

Join me in spirited congratulations and well wishes for America's team, the New York Giants, in their 17–14 championship win.

#### SANTA MARGARITA RIVER, CALIFORNIA, CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of my bill H.R. 29, the Santa Margarita Conjunctive Use Project. I would like to thank Chairmen NICK RAHALL and IKE SKELTON for quickly moving this bill through their respective committees. This is now the third Congress in which this bill has passed the house, and I hope the Senate will act just as quickly.

The Santa Margarita Conjunctive Use Project is very important to U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and the city of Fallbrook. In 1966 the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California entered a stipulated judgment in *U.S. v. Fallbrook P.U.D.* directing the Department of the Interior to provide a "physical solution" to the 60/40 allocation of the Santa Margarita River. Since then, previous legislative efforts to authorize a project carrying out the Federal judge's mandate have not been successful despite past support of Members of the California Congressional delegation. Finally, through a long process of negotiation between the Marine Corps and the city, this conjunctive use project was agreed upon. This design was deemed to fully implement the court's directive at far less than half the cost of previous proposals with no environmental degradation.

Furthermore, passage of this authorization for the conjunctive use project is essential to giving Camp Pendleton access to the San Diego Aqueduct. Since its completion, the aqueduct has provided ample access to Southern California's regional water supply system

for nearly all of San Diego County, except for Camp Pendleton. A key benefit of H.R. 29 will be the construction of a water system physically connecting Camp Pendleton to the San Diego Aqueduct, thereby making it possible to use imported water as needed, including emergency mobilization in time of conflict.

The conference report for the Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act directed the Bureau of Reclamation, under the Santa Margarita River feasibility authorization, to "... perform the studies needed to address current and future municipal, domestic, military, environmental, and other water uses from the Santa Margarita River." Funding for Reclamation's feasibility study of the Santa Margarita Conjunctive Use Project has been provided in each subsequent fiscal year up to the present, and its work is more than 90 percent complete. When signed into law, this project will be funded by the Department of Navy and Department of the Interior. This project is essential to ensure that Camp Pendleton has a larger water supply to meet the current and future needs of the base.

This project has been vetted by multiple committees over a number of years and found to be of the utmost importance to the Marines at Camp Pendleton, while also benefiting the city of Fallbrook. It will provide for enhanced recharge and recovery from the underground basin on Camp Pendleton to provide a constant water supply for the base, along with a safe, reliable, drought-and earthquake-proof water supply for more than 35,000 families.

Again, I thank my colleagues for working with me and my constituents to move H.R. 29 through the legislative process.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MARINE MAMMAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS IN ALASKA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Marine Mammal Cooperative Agreements in Alaska Amendments of 2008.

The 1994 amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act created section 119 of the Act, titled "Marine Mammal Cooperative Agreements in Alaska," which allows the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with Alaska Native organizations. These cooperative agreements have been very successful in creating statewide and regional Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions protecting species such as the polar bear, walrus, sea otters, beluga whale, harbor and ice seals, and Steller sea lions. The cooperative agreements have provided grants to Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions to conduct important marine mammal data collection efforts, marine mammal research, and monitor subsistence activities.

Alaska Natives have been excellent stewards of Alaska's natural resources for centuries. The Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions have continued this tradition by working cooperatively with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries

Service to successfully manage the species under their respective jurisdictions. In order to further this success, the Commissions have advocated for management of subsistence activities. Section 119 of the MMPA does not currently allow for management of subsistence activities prior to a depletion finding under the Act.

In 2000, the Clinton Administration sent Congress a draft bill to reauthorize the MMPA and included in it authorities for the Alaska Marine Mammal Commissions to manage and enforce subsistence activities. The Bush Administration followed suit including similar language in its own draft bill to reauthorize the MMPA.

I have not taken the exact approach of the Clinton and Bush proposals, however, I do believe this legislation will achieve the same result. I have worked with the administration, the Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions, and State of Alaska representatives to develop a bill that allows for management prior to a depletion finding under the MMPA.

The Whaling Convention Act of 1949, which governs the Bowhead whale subsistence activities, and the more recently passed legislation implementing the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Treaty, governing the subsistence take of polar bears, are two excellent examples of legislation Congress passed to authorize marine mammal management activities.

This legislation will further refine the cooperative management process under the MMPA to ensure that Alaska Natives and the Federal agencies with marine mammal management authority have the tools they need to continue their successful management efforts.

I urge my colleagues to support this important conservation legislation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MONSIGNOR JOSEPH CHAMPLIN

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of Syracuse's most beloved priests. Monsignor Joseph Champlin, who passed away on January 17 at the age of 77.

Throughout his life Father Joe was dedicated not only to the priesthood and his faith, but also to the people and communities he served.

Ordained in 1956, Father Joe served for 50 years in the Syracuse Diocese. He served as pastor in three parishes, including as rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from 1995 until his retirement in 2005. Even in retirement, Msgr. Champlin was active in the church and the community. In 2006 he became priest in residence at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Warners, New York.

Father Joe was known worldwide for being a prolific writer. He wrote more than 62 books and pamphlets on liturgy, pastoral theology, love, and marriage. In fact, Father Champlin's "Together for Life" continues to lead Catholic couples across the country and around the world through preparation for marriage.

In addition to his success as a writer, Msgr. Champlin remained committed to the people of the greater Syracuse area throughout his

life. In 1997 he founded the Guardian Angel Society, which provides tuition assistance, technological updates, and other improvements to the former Cathedral School in Syracuse. He raised more than \$2 million for the program, and for that effort he was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award by President George W. Bush in 2005. He also received the Post-Standard Achievement Award in 2005 and the Temple Adath Yeshurun Citizen of the year award this past October.

Msgr. Champlin's commitment to the Catholic Church and the people that he served is unquestionable. He was a beloved priest and friend, and will be sorely missed.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTHA W. BARK

#### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Martha Bark. On February 21, 2008, Mrs. Bark will be celebrated for her contributions to southern New Jersey at the Burlington County Republican Committee and Burlington County Republican Women's Annual Lincoln Day Dinner.

Martha Bark has dedicated a lifetime of service to our communities. A resident of Medford for over 40 years, Martha served on the township school board for 10 years and the township committee for 7 years. She was also appointed mayor and served two full terms.

Furthering her interest in serving the broad community, Martha was elected to the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1984. Given her background in education and community preservation, she became the chairperson of the Water Quality Management Board and worked on several additional committees aimed at increasing open space. Martha served four consecutive terms and was appointed freeholder director for 2 years.

After her tenure as a freeholder, Martha went on to become a member of the New Jersey State Assembly for 2 years and finally, a member of the New Jersey State Senate in 1997. As a senator, she served on the Transportation and Economic Growth, Tourism, and Agricultural Committee, where she was elected chairperson. As a former business owner, it was natural for Martha to become a member of the Senate Community & Urban Affairs Committee and also a member of the Senate Budget Committee.

Outside public office, Martha has volunteered her time to various organizations. She was a member of the Burlington County Farmland Preservation Advisory Board and the Burlington County Open Space Advisory Board. Martha also sat on the Burlington County Family Services Board and was a member of the HB Industrial Village Conservancy Board of Trustees.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for her leadership, commitment, and service to the public.

#### HONORING OF ONE ACCORD MINISTRY AND ALL FIRST DISTRICT VOLUNTEERS

#### HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of the volunteers of Tennessee and the First District. Of One Accord Ministry is a charity that is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Tennessee has been called the "Volunteer" state by the great efforts of our citizens during The War of 1812. Since The War of 1812 the people of Tennessee continue to show pride, dedication and service through volunteer efforts. People from around the nation are moving into my district to enjoy the wonderful quality of life found in its beauty and the spirit of its people. Our first volunteers were heroes serving in The War of 1812 and our citizens today are heroes sacrificing their time and effort to volunteer in an assortment of ways.

Of One Accord Ministry serves two rural and lowly populated counties in my district and continually utilizes the efforts of nearly 500 people during 2007. These 500 volunteers have sacrificed over 51,533 hours of service and have served over 71,695 people in various ways. The ministry serves from four physical sites offering emergency food distribution, meal delivery for seniors five days a week, participating in our states summer feeding program, offering a free medical clinic, doing home repairs, organizing the county's Christmas programs and others.

Of One Accord does not work alone. They work hand-in-hand with schools, clubs, scouts, and Postal workers to help complete their mission. Similarly, partnerships with businesses, hospitals and laboratories provide other services for the clinic. The help does not stop there; many others supply resources and help in any way possible.

We tend to overlook the millions of volunteers across the nation giving their time and efforts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the volunteers from Of One Accord Ministry who have served for twenty years and all of the volunteers in Tennessee's First District alike.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF DOLORES "DEE" BENSON

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and honor of Dolores "Dee" Benson, a beloved figure in Cleveland area politics and a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

Dee was born in 1925 in Altoona, Pennsylvania, where she spent most of her early life. She was an exceptional student at Altoona High School, and had a special gift for foreign languages and science. She was offered a full tuition scholarship to Penn State University, but chose to go to work instead. She married Bud in 1947 and they moved to Cleveland to raise their seven children, Robert, Patrick,

Jacqueline, Mary, Elizabeth, Denise, and Christine. She will also be dearly missed by her eleven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Dee was incredibly active in her Cleveland neighborhood, serving as President of the Southwest Military Moms; President, Treasurer, and Secretary of Parma Women's Democratic Club; Precinct Committeewoman and Democratic Ward Leader for the community of Seven Hills; and a founding member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish; just to name a few of her many accomplishments and activities.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Dee Benson, a much-loved activist whose contributions to her community will continue to uphold her legacy.

#### COMMEMORATING THE COURAGE OF THE HAITIAN SOLDIERS THAT FOUGHT FOR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE IN THE "SIEGE OF SAVANNAH"

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of the significant Haitian contribution to the American fight for independence. A pioneering band of 500 Haitians volunteered at the inception of this Nation's great story, laying life and limb on the line for the cause of liberty. That effort left an indelible mark on history, drawing the largest unit of soldiers of African descent to fight in the 'Siege of Savannah.'

It is the highest expression of selflessness and generosity to brush aside geopolitical divisions and serve nobly in support of another nation. We salute these valiant men—over 300 of which were killed on our soil—for helping secure and establish our great democracy, for answering the call in defense of neighbors, in defense of friends.

That island nation has, over the years, proven its commitment to courage—leading a successful battle for independence of its own and repudiating early the pernicious institution of slavery. Hundreds of years later, we have not forgotten.

#### EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

#### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of TOM LANTOS. The passing of Chairman LANTOS is a great loss to the Congress, our Nation, and to oppressed people worldwide.

Born in Budapest, Congressman LANTOS was 16 in 1944 when Nazis captured and occupied the city. He twice escaped Nazi labor

camps and was one of the thousands of Jews saved from the Holocaust by the humanity of the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg. Yet most of his family members did not survive the Holocaust.

At the end of the Second World War, Representative LANTOS came to the United States with his childhood sweetheart, and soon-to-be wife, Annette Tillemann. Over the past 58 years, LANTOS and Tillemann were rarely far apart and worked tirelessly together to champion human rights around the globe. Today, my thoughts and prayers are with her and the Lantos children.

When LANTOS came to Congress in 1980, the first major piece of legislation he introduced was to award honorary American citizenship to Raoul Wallenberg, whom he called "the central figure in my life." Wallenberg was a central figure in the lives of many European Jews.

A few years later TOM founded the Human Rights Caucus. As co-chairman of the caucus, LANTOS was the leading critic of abusive and despotic regimes abroad. He was unafraid to confront the Chinese Government for its human rights record and he was undeterred in his efforts to end the ongoing genocide in Darfur. Most recently he helped move through Congress tough sanctions on the Burmese junta to help restore that country's democracy.

As chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for the past year, Congressman LANTOS continued to be a moral leader on human rights and an advocate for those who had none.

TOM LANTOS was a friend to me and to all people who believed in the basic rights of all people. I am honored to have served with him and I will do my best to work for continued fulfillment of his ideals.

#### IN MEMORY OF CHERIE LOVE

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my longtime friend, Cherie Willard Love. She passed away a couple of weeks ago but she will always be remembered by those she touched.

And she touched many.

Cherie was a Ventura County, California, native, having been born in Oxnard 76 years ago. After earning a bachelor's degree from Whittier College and a master's from La Verne College, Cherie embarked on a career as a kindergarten teacher. For the first twelve years, she taught in Oceano and San Luis Obispo, but then returned to her roots and taught in the Ventura Unified School District for the next 26 years.

Teaching was not a job to Cherie; it was her passion.

That passion for her students and profession earned her recognition in October 1986 as the top teacher of the month by the Greater Ventura Chamber of Commerce's Youth and Education Committee. Outside the classroom, Cherie was an active member of the Philanthropic Education Organization, Alpha Delta Kappa, Delta Kappa Gamma, and the California Retired Teacher's Association.

Cherie also served as president of the Ventura Retired Teachers Association Scholarship

Foundation, which provides scholarships to local college students studying for a career in education. As a final act toward her beloved profession, Cherie directed friends and relatives to donate to the fund in her memory.

Cherie outlived two husbands. Don Crinklaw and Don Love, and a son, Bruce Crinklaw, but is survived by a host of other family, including her twin sister, Charlene Blalock-Carlson, and three other sisters, Carrie Perkins, Cyndie Huntsberger, and Sandy Elkhart; daughters, Sharlee Villa and Carla Dennis; cousin, George Cady; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering Cherie Love's lifelong passion for education and her love of family and community and in offering our condolences to her family and friends.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLEMAN'S AUTHENTIC IRISH PUB

### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Coleman's Authentic Irish Pub in Syracuse, New York.

Founded in 1933, Coleman's, located on Tipperary Hill, is a fixture of the Central New York community. Throughout its long history, Coleman's has transformed from a working man's saloon in the 1930's to a college hot spot in the 1970's to the first class restaurant and pub it is today. With its great food, wonderful service, and Irish atmosphere, Coleman's Authentic Irish Pub is a place for all generations to enjoy and is a premiere attraction in central New York.

Coleman's has always strived to maintain the highest standards of public service, and I am proud to recognize them today. I congratulate owner Peter J. Coleman, his wife Mary Pat and children, and his employees, both past and present, on reaching this milestone. On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, I thank them for their 75 years of business that has been such a positive influence on the community.

#### TRIBUTE TO LARRY CHATZIDAKIS

### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Larry Chatzidakis. On February 21, 2008, Mr. Chatzidakis will be celebrated for his contributions to Burlington County at the Burlington County Republican Committee and Burlington County Republican Women's Annual Lincoln Day Dinner.

Since 1985, Larry Chatzidakis has represented the best interests of Burlington County residents. He was first elected to the Mount Laurel Township Council and remained until 2000. Proving a valuable asset to the community, Larry was re-elected mayor four times and spearheaded numerous projects during

his tenure. Residents may remember him most for his role in the construction of Laurel Acres Park. It has become a natural choice for Mount Laurel residents looking for recreation, with its many exercise trails, playground equipment, and sledding hill. Most recently, a veteran's memorial was added to the site to honor those who have served in our Armed Forces. In addition to his mayoral duties, Larry was elected to the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1995.

From 1997–2008, Larry represented the 8th District as a member of the New Jersey State Assembly. He continued to offer his talents in the Assembly as a member of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and as vice-chair of the Solid and Hazardous Waste Committee. As a conscientious elected public official, Larry took the concerns of his constituents to heart as he became a member of the Commission to Deter Criminal Activity and a member of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

No stranger to the community at large, Larry served on the board of the Burlington County Red Cross and was also chairman of the Burlington County Boy Scouts Mahalala District. He is also a member of the Mount Laurel Rotary Club for 17 years and served one term as president.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it gives me great honor to recognize Larry Chatzidakis for his tremendous efforts and devotion to his community. I and the people of New Jersey are greatly appreciative of him and sincerely thank him for all of his dedication.

#### IN HONOR OF THE VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR: TET, 2008—YEAR OF THE RAT

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, 2008, is the Year of the Rat. As the Vietnamese community in Greater Cleveland gathers at St. Helena Catholic Church to enjoy their Vietnamese culture, I join them in celebration of this rich heritage.

The Tet is the time of the year for our Vietnamese neighbors to honor those that have gone before us and enjoy the company of family and friends. This year's celebration will honor community leaders, and serve as a demonstration of Vietnamese music and dance.

2008 also marks thirty-three years of service to the community by the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc. The Vietnamese Community, Inc. has been an invaluable resource for hundreds of Clevelanders, linking them to needed services and serving to maintain the rich heritage of the Vietnamese people.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Le Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc., and all their members, for their commitment to Vietnamese-Americans of Northeast Ohio.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebration of the Vietnamese New Year, Tet 2008: Year of the Rat. May the Vietnamese community of Cleveland, and throughout the nation, carry on their proud heritage throughout the year.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in mourning of a most distinguished colleague, a champion for America, a lifelong survivor, and a kind friend, Representative TOM LANTOS.

He stood at the near-perilous brink of history. Born to Jewish parents in Budapest, Hungary, he joined the Hungarian underground—at not yet 17—after the Nazi occupation and twice escaped from forced labor camp. He was beaten. His mother, much of his family, and the family of his high school sweetheart-turned-wife were killed.

He transformed tragedy into triumph. After earning an American education and raising a family, he became the only Holocaust survivor elected to the U.S. Congress in 1980. Three years later, he had founded the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. And last year, he became the chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

He was a man of steadfast principle. He was one of five members of Congress—at not yet 80—arrested in a protest outside the Sudanese Embassy, in opposition to the genocide in Darfur. He trumpeted the causes of civil liberties and human rights with a consistent, measured voice, having survived such great evil and wanting to spare the world that suffering.

His soul, his convictions, his grit and determination—as genuine at age 17 as 80—remained uncompromising, unimpeachable.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL  
EDWARD E. MUNGER

**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the distinguished life of BG Edward E. Munger of Fresno, CA, who lost his brave battle with cancer on February 11 at the age of 68.

General Munger lived an extraordinary life of service to his country, community and family. He served more than 3 decades in the California National Guard, and served in Washington, DC under Presidents Nixon, Carter and Reagan. General Munger retired on October 30, 1990 after completing 33 years of service to our country.

General Munger's love for his country was also evident in the service he gave to his local community. He served as a Fresno County Reserve Deputy Sheriff for several years on the Power Board Squadron; was a member and at his death the president of I.R.O. Soararsis, a support organization for Kings Canyon National Park; was on the Board of Trustees of Children's Hospital Central Cali-

fornia; on the Rotary Club of Fresno Board of Directors; on the Fresno County Planning Commission; and on the Fresno County grand jury. Even being diagnosed with cancer could not prevent him from public service, as he continued to serve the community as chairman of California's 21st Congressional District Military Academy nomination committee.

General Munger inspired all of those he knew, including myself. He was a man full of character and integrity who treated all human beings with dignity and generosity. Munger helped thousands of young people achieve goals that otherwise might not have been possible. From simple guidance to providing a stable home environment or providing free rent to a student in his apartment building, he asked only that they "pay it forward" by helping others when they are in a position to do so.

General Munger is survived by his wife, the former Tamsen Nichols, whom he married 37 years ago, and their adult children, Edward Earl and Eleanor Elizabeth of the San Francisco Bay area.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 43, 44, and 45, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, February 12, 2008, I was unable to cast my vote on Suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 954 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 43 on passing H. Res. 954, Honoring the life of senior Border Patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar, who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona, on January 19, 2008, I would have voted "aye."

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH—

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2008 theme—Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism. Dr. Woodson's life and words remind us, as Americans, that in order to continue to move forward, we must take the time to reflect on the past.

The theme for this year's Black History Month, Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism, is a reminder that in striving

for a greater society, we must examine the past. A brilliant author, publisher, and historian, Dr. Woodson understood that history was much more than facts on a page, but rather a detailed account and interpretation of the struggles and achievements of society as a whole. It was this belief that motivated Dr. Woodson to author many books and publish many articles on the outstanding contributions of so many proud and courageous African Americans.

Dr. Woodson's belief in the importance of historical study played a critical role in preserving the rich history of African Americans throughout the United States. His efforts led to the foundation of Negro History Week, which would later become Black History Month. His writings and teachings encourage not only African Americans, but all Americans, to reflect on, become educated about, and treasure these outstanding efforts. Dr. Woodson has also been seen by many other historians as a true inspiration. In the First Congressional District, I am proud to represent organizations such as the Interfaith Federation of Northwest Indiana, under the leadership of Executive Director Patricia Jackson, and the Gary Frontiers Service Club, under the leadership of President Oliver J. Gilliam, which have carried on such important ideals, reiterating the need for merging cultural beliefs and tradition and coming together to reflect on the past in seeking to improve the future.

It is the efforts of organizations like the Interfaith Federation and the Gary Frontiers Service Club that allow us to reflect on what makes the United States of America so special. Nowhere else in the world do you find such an integrated society. While the United States is made up of people from so many different cultural, religious, social, and ideological backgrounds, it is our freedom and our ability to share our backgrounds with each other that is the true testament to the American way of life.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the Interfaith Federation, the Gary Frontiers Service Club and the many organizations throughout the United States that continue to preserve the African American heritage for all Americans. Through their words and teachings, these honorable individuals and organizations remind us all of the struggles and accomplishments that African Americans have made to lead us to where we are as a Nation today, while reminding us that there is still progress to be made.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ADVANTAGE THAT LOW INCOME TAXPAYERS WILL TAKE OF THE EITC

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support of the EITC, a refundable tax credit that reduces or eliminates taxes that low-income married or single working people pay, and also frequently operates as a wage subsidy for low-income workers. I am expressing my hope that taxpayers with incomes of less than \$39,783 will take advantage of the EITC, since this can result in a refund of more than \$4,700 for the eligible taxpayers. The EITC is one of the largest anti-

poverty tools in the United States. This is an opportunity to help people get out of poverty. To educate those who are eligible for the EITC, more tax centers have extended their hours of operation. I encourage my colleagues in Congress to inform their constituents of the available resources. To check one's eligibility and identify the nearest IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center one can go to IRS.gov.

#### CELEBRATING VERMONT'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

#### HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, Vermont is proud to welcome General Miroslav Stojanovski, Chief of Staff of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia. General Stojanovski's visit is the latest step in a long history of partnership between Vermont and Macedonia.

Established in 1995 through the State Partnership Program of the U.S.-European Command, the partnership began as primarily a military-to-military relationship between the Macedonian Army and the Vermont National Guard. This military partnership has resulted in over 540 joint events that have included over 6,000 members of the Macedonian Army. In September 2006, Vermont National Guard troops and their Macedonian Army counterparts carried out a major, 2-week-long, small-unit exchange exercise to support the professionalization of the Macedonian military in its transformation to meet NATO interoperability standards.

Vermonters' engagement with Macedonia has expanded into civil affairs as well, including the establishment of university partnerships, economic development discussions, and support for the Macedonian youth baseball organization.

In May 2007, the University of Vermont signed an agreement with the SS Cyril and Methodius University to promote collaborative scientific research, joint conferences and workshops, and faculty and student exchanges.

Vermonters have also played an important role in bringing baseball, our national pastime, to Macedonia. C.J. Knudsen, the general manager of the Vermont Lake Monsters minor league baseball team traveled to Macedonia to deliver gloves, balls, bats, uniforms, and other equipment to help start the country's first little league.

Macedonia has made incredible strides since its independence in 1991, achieving membership in the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Trade Organization, and to NATO's Partnership for Peace and Membership Action Plan. Macedonia is a candidate for European Union membership and may soon be invited as a full member of NATO, hopefully as soon as April of this year. I look forward to the continued strengthening of the United States and especially Vermont's partnership with the Republic of Macedonia.

#### RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY

#### HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a resolution officially designating July 26, 2008, as the "National Day of the Cowboy." Americans are encouraged to observe the national contribution of Cowboys and Cowgirls with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

This resolution declares Congress support for honoring working Cowboys and their ongoing contributions to our communities. It also recognizes the Cowboy as a central figure in literature, film and music, occupying an important place in the public imagination. The "National Day of the Cowboy" honors the livelihood of the Cowboy as one that spans race, gender and generations.

Our legendary Cowboy is embraced and respected by people the world over as a symbol of rugged individualism. He represents a commitment to get the job done and do it well while depending on his own ingenuity for survival. He is loyal to an honorable code of ethics as well as persistent and tenacious in the face of any challenge.

The Cowboy is indeed the ultimate western icon, reminding us of a special time in the heart of America's history.

I am proud to be introducing this resolution today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in declaring congressional support for the "National Day of the Cowboy."

#### CONGRATULATING LEE MYUNGBAK ON ELECTION TO PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SPEECH OF

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2008*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 947 which welcomes the new President of the Republic of Korea, Lee Myung-Bak, and congratulates him on his upcoming inauguration later this month. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this important resolution.

Madam Speaker, not a little more than a half century ago—within living memory of several Members of this House, most notably our distinguished Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, my dear friend Mr. RANGEL—the Republic of Korea was an impoverished casualty of imperialism and war. It has since grown to be affluent and productive beyond the wildest dreams of the American and South Korean soldiers who fought shoulder-to-shoulder for freedom and democracy during the Korean War.

There are over two million Americans of Korean descent living throughout the United States, from Hawaii, where the first Korean immigrants landed a little more than a century ago, to New York, which is home to one of the largest and most vibrant Korean American communities in the Nation. It is important to

note that Korean Americans have made significant contributions in New York politically, economically, culturally and through their various civic and religious organizations.

The newly elected President of the Republic of Korea is a distinguished statesman and prominent business leader. President-elect Lee Myung-Bak has served as a Member of the South Korean National Assembly; he was Mayor of Seoul, South Korea's largest city and capital; he has been a visiting scholar at the George Washington University; and he has been the chief executive officer of some of the Republic of Korea's most successful business corporations affiliated with the Hyundai Group. He has distinguished himself over the years in both the public and private sectors.

Madam Speaker, President-elect Lee has indicated, in several statements he has made since his election, a profound desire to strengthen the already strong friendship and partnership between the Republic of Korea and the United States. I applaud President-elect Lee for this commitment and look forward to working with him and administration to this end. I join my colleagues in congratulating and wishing him and his transition team well as they take up their new responsibilities.

#### HONORING THOMAS BASSANO OF TAMPA, FLORIDA

#### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man dedicated to turning the tragic abduction and murder of Citrus County child Jessica Lunsford into a rallying cause for child advocacy issues. On Saturday, March 1, 2008, Tom will set out from Marina Del Ray, California, on a cross country journey, running 3,000 miles to raise awareness for children's safety and help prevent future children from being harmed by sexual predators.

In the process of planning for his cross-country run, Tom established the Run for the Innocent to gather support for his endeavor. This group is working with Mark Lunsford, the father of Jessica, as well as the Citrus County Child Advocacy Center, Jessie's Place. All of the charity runs scheduled along Tom's path from California to Florida will be coordinated by staff and volunteers from the center, with all charity proceeds going to charity.

Since his daughter was abducted and killed in 2005, Mark Lunsford has led a 50-state effort to strengthen laws targeting sexual offenders and predators. I was proud to work with Mark to pass Federal legislation, the Jessica Lunsford Act, as part of comprehensive child welfare legislation. A man truly dedicated to improving the chances for children affected by abuse, neglect, and sexual predators, Mark established Jessie's Place as a center to serve children affected by child abuse or neglect.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Tom Bassano for making his commitment to American children and running across the United States to fight violence against children. Tom's effort shows the effect that one man can have on the lives of millions, and should be commended by this entire body for

his novel idea to raise money for this worthy cause. We wish Tom luck on his journey and look forward to welcoming him to Citrus County when he finishes his run.

#### HONORING FAMILY SERVICES INC.

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of Family Services Incorporated, a non-profit organization located in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Family Services Incorporated has worked to provide vital services to the community.

Known at its founding as the Blair County Children's Aid Society, the organization was created to aid in the care and eventual adoption of abused and neglected children. A community-wide evaluation found that there was a need for a nonprofit agency to offer capable social work services aimed toward resolving individual, marital and family problems in 1967 and 1968. The United Way agency provided funding for Family and Children's Service of Blair County so it could provide programming and services to meet those needs. Throughout the 1970s, the agency established a residential program for individuals with developmental disabilities. Throughout the 1980s the agency served victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and runaway and homeless children. In 1997 the agency officially became Family Services Incorporated.

Led by a dedicated board of directors and management team, Family Services Incorporated is always willing to adjust programming for adults and children who seek its services. It has constantly endeavored to build healthier relationships within the community. Dedicated staff provide services through the Domestic Abuse Project, Crime Victim Support Services, Street Wise Outreach and Opportunity Program, Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, Emergency Shelter for Men, Men helping Men, Developmental Disabilities Program, Protection from Abuse Office, Women Aware and Counseling.

Family Services Incorporated has provided a trustworthy atmosphere which has worked to help a multitude of men, women, and children throughout its history. I look forward to celebrating the 80th anniversary of such a wonderful organization, as it has brought a greater appreciation to our area and has surely been an asset to the community. I would like to wish Family Services Incorporated all the best in its future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I was absent for legislative business conducted on February 12, 2008, due to inclement weather. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 43–45.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "aye" on rollcall vote 43—H. Res. 954, hon-

oring the life of senior Border Patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona, on January 19, 2008; "aye" on rollcall vote 44—H. Res. 909, commemorating the courage of the Haitian soldiers that fought for American independence in the "Siege of Savannah" and for Haiti's independence and renunciation of slavery; and "aye" on rollcall vote 45—H. Con. Res. 238, celebrating the birth of Abraham Lincoln and recognizing the prominence the Declaration of Independence played in the development of Abraham Lincoln's beliefs.

#### ECONOMIC STIMULUS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to the House Democratic and Republican leadership and to our colleagues in the Senate for the bipartisan effort that has produced timely, targeted, and temporary legislation to stimulate our Nation's slowing economy. I am also pleased that the legislation we are about to consider ensures that our Nation's senior citizens and disabled veterans are not left out of this worthwhile package.

Because of my concerns that the bill we considered last week did not include low-income seniors and disabled, I led the effort in the House to ensure that those who depend entirely on their Social Security checks were included in the final version of this legislation. I am very pleased that the Senate agreed and expanded the economic stimulus package to provide these Americans with much-needed relief. I urge my colleagues in the House to do the same.

Our Nation's seniors and disabled veterans are facing difficult economic times. For years, these men and women have been forced to survive on less and less as their costs continue to increase and their incomes remain the same. These Americans need cash rebates just as much as the individuals originally included in the stimulus package.

I am also pleased to see that the legislation we are about to vote on includes language that would ensure that illegal immigrants do not receive cash benefits that should only go to those who rightfully deserve them. This language mirrors legislation that I introduced in the House today.

Finally, the bill before us contains an important provision that I helped to craft as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises. This reform will temporarily increase the conforming loan limits of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to enhance the liquidity of our mortgage markets. I support this short-term change.

Madam Speaker, once again I wish to applaud the efforts of both the Members of the House and Senate in crafting legislation that will spur our economy, provide rebates to those that need them most, and ensure that those ineligible for federal benefits do not receive them.

#### COMPETING CURRENCIES

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the concept of competing currencies. Currency, or money, is what allows civilization to flourish. In the absence of money, barter is the name of the game; if the farmer needs shoes, he must trade his eggs and milk to the cobbler and hope that the cobbler needs eggs and milk. Money makes the transaction process far easier. Rather than having to search for someone with reciprocal wants, the farmer can exchange his milk and eggs for an agreed-upon medium of exchange with which he can then purchase shoes.

This medium of exchange should satisfy certain properties: It should be durable, that is to say, it does not wear out easily; it should be portable, that is, easily carried; it should be divisible into units usable for everyday transactions: it should be recognizable and uniform, so that one unit of money has the same properties as every other unit; it should be scarce, in the economic sense, so that the extant supply does not satisfy the wants of everyone demanding it; it should be stable, so that the value of its purchasing power does not fluctuate wildly; and it should be reproducible, so that enough units of money can be created to satisfy the needs of exchange.

Over millennia of human history, gold and silver have been the two metals that have most often satisfied these conditions, survived the market process, and gained the trust of billions of people. Gold and silver are difficult to counterfeit, a property which ensures they will always be accepted in commerce. It is precisely for this reason that gold and silver are anathema to governments. A supply of gold and silver that is limited in supply by nature cannot be inflated, and thus serves as a check on the growth of government. Without the ability to inflate the currency, governments find themselves constrained in their actions, unable to carry on wars of aggression or to appease their overtaxed citizens with bread and circuses.

At this country's founding, there was no government controlled national currency. While the Constitution established the Congressional power of minting coins, it was not until 1792 that the U.S. Mint was formally established. In the meantime, Americans made do with foreign silver and gold coins. Even after the Mint's operations got underway, foreign coins continued to circulate within the United States, and did so for several decades.

On the desk in my office I have a sign that says: "Don't steal—the government hates competition." Indeed, any power a government arrogates to itself, it is loathe to give back to the people. Just as we have gone from a constitutionally-instituted national defense consisting of a limited army and navy bolstered by militias and letters of marque and reprisal, we have moved from a system of competing currencies to a government-instituted banking cartel that monopolizes the issuance of currency. In order to introduce a system of competing currencies, there are three steps that must be taken to produce a legal climate favorable to competition.



The first step consists of eliminating legal tender laws. Article I Section 10 of the Constitution forbids the States from making anything but gold and silver a legal tender in payment of debts. States are not required to enact legal tender laws, but should they choose to, the only acceptable legal tender is gold and silver, the two precious metals that individuals throughout history and across cultures have used as currency. However, there is nothing in the Constitution that grants the Congress the power to enact legal tender laws. We, the Congress, have the power to coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, but not to declare a legal tender. Yet, there is a section of U.S. Code, 31 U.S.C. 5103, that purports to establish U.S. coins and currency, including Federal Reserve notes, as legal tender.

Historically, legal tender laws have been used by governments to force their citizens to accept debased and devalued currency. Gresham's Law describes this phenomenon, which can be summed up in one phrase: Bad money drives out good money. An emperor, a king, or a dictator might mint coins with half an ounce of gold and force merchants, under pain of death, to accept them as though they contained one ounce of gold. Each ounce of the king's gold could now be minted into two coins instead of one, so the king now had twice as much "money" to spend on building castles and raising armies. As these legally overvalued coins circulated, the coins containing the full ounce of gold would be pulled out of circulation and hoarded. We saw this same phenomenon happen in the mid-1960s when the U.S. government began to mint subsidiary coinage out of copper and nickel rather than silver. The copper and nickel coins were legally overvalued, the silver coins undervalued in relation, and silver coins vanished from circulation.

These actions also give rise to the most pernicious effects of inflation. Most of the merchants and peasants who received this devalued currency felt the full effects of inflation, the rise in prices and the lowered standard of living, before they received any of the new currency. By the time they received the new currency, prices had long since doubled, and the new currency they received would give them no benefit.

In the absence of legal tender laws, Gresham's Law no longer holds. If people are free to reject debased currency, and instead demand sound money, sound money will gradually return to use in society. Merchants would have been free to reject the king's coin and accept only coins containing full metal weight.

The second step to reestablishing competing currencies is to eliminate laws that prohibit the operation of private mints. One private enterprise which attempted to popularize the use of precious metal coins was Liberty Services, the creators of the Liberty Dollar. Evidently the government felt threatened, as Liberty Dollars had all their precious metal coins seized by the FBI and Secret Service this past November. Of course, not all of these coins were owned by Liberty Services, as many were held in trust as backing for silver and gold certificates which Liberty Services issued. None of this matters, of course, to the government, who hates to see any competition.

The sections of U.S. Code which Liberty Services is accused of violating are erro-

neously considered to be anti-counterfeiting statutes, when in fact their purpose was to shut down private mints that had been operating in California. California was awash in gold in the aftermath of the 1849 gold rush, yet had no U.S. Mint to mint coinage. There was not enough foreign coinage circulating in California either, so private mints stepped into the breach to provide their own coins. As was to become the case in other industries during the Progressive era, the private mints were eventually accused of circulating debased (substandard) coinage, and in the interest of providing government-sanctioned regulation and a government guarantee of purity, the 1864 Coinage Act was passed, which banned private mints from producing their own coins for circulation as currency.

The final step to ensuring competing currencies is to eliminate capital gains and sales taxes on gold and silver coins. Under current Federal law, coins are considered collectibles, and are liable for capital gains taxes. Short-term capital gains rates are at income tax levels, up to 35 percent, while long-term capital gains taxes are assessed at the collectibles rate of 28 percent. Furthermore, these taxes actually tax monetary debasement. As the dollar weakens, the nominal dollar value of gold increases. The purchasing power of gold may remain relatively constant, but as the nominal dollar value increases, the Federal government considers this an increase in wealth, and taxes accordingly. Thus, the more the dollar is debased, the more capital gains taxes must be paid on holdings of gold and other precious metals.

Just as pernicious are the sales and use taxes which are assessed on gold and silver at the State level in many States. Imagine having to pay sales tax at the bank every time you change a \$10 bill for a roll of quarters to do laundry. Inflation is a pernicious tax on the value of money, but even the official numbers, which are massaged downwards, are only on the order of 4 percent per year. Sales taxes in many states can take away 8 percent or more on every single transaction in which consumers wish to convert their Federal Reserve Notes into gold or silver.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, allowing for competing currencies will allow market participants to choose a currency that suits their needs, rather than the needs of the government. The prospect of American citizens turning away from the dollar towards alternate currencies will provide the necessary impetus to the U.S. government to regain control of the dollar and halt its downward spiral. Restoring soundness to the dollar will remove the government's ability and incentive to inflate the currency, and keep us from launching unconstitutional wars that burden our economy to excess. With a sound currency, everyone is better off, not just those who control the monetary system. I urge my colleagues to consider the redevelopment of a system of competing currencies.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man, Congressman TOM LANTOS.

I would like to send my deepest sympathies to Annette and the whole Lantos family. Congressman TOM LANTOS' partnership with his wife, Annette, was one of respect and true adoration. I hope that the whole family will be comforted by the knowledge that TOM's work has enhanced the lives of millions around the world.

I was proud to serve on the Foreign Affairs Committee under the chairmanship of TOM LANTOS. Within the Congress, he was viewed as the strongest and most vocal defender of human rights. When he spoke, people listened, and when he led, people followed. His moral clarity serves as an example that generations to come will strive to follow.

His achievements in world affairs will live on as his legacy. His impassioned protection of human rights, his crusade for democracy, his defense of Israel and Jews worldwide, show that one individual truly can make a difference in this world.

Last fall, he and Annette asked me to lead the Congressional Taskforce on Anti-Semitism, which is a project that they started together as Holocaust survivors. Now, as we continue our fight against anti-Semitism throughout the world, his memory will carry on in everything that we do.

Congress and the Nation have lost an important voice. But that voice will continue to inspire America and people throughout the world.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 7, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall Nos. 32–42.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 32—"yes"—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 33—"yes"—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 34—"yes"—Calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya.

Rollcall No. 35—"yes"—To extend for one year parity in the application of certain limits to mental health benefits, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 36—"yes"—Petri of Wisconsin Amendment No. 4.



Rollcall No. 37—"yes"—Petri of Wisconsin Amendment No. 5.

Rollcall No. 38—"yes"—Davis of Illinois Amendment.

Rollcall No. 39—"no"—To amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 40—"yes"—To amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 41—"yes"—Congratulating Lee Myung-Bak on his election to the Presidency of the Republic of Korea and wishing him well during his time of transition and his inauguration on February 25, 2008.

Rollcall No. 42—"yes"—Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act of 2008.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MARY ISAAK

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of Mary Isaak, a Petaluma activist who was committed to the noble struggle of helping the less fortunate overcome homelessness. Mary died of congestive heart failure last month at the age of 88, leaving an enduring legacy to the people of Petaluma, California through the establishment of COTS—the Committee on the Shelterless.

After receiving a music degree from the University of Oregon, Mary moved to Berkeley, where she met her future husband, who later tired of the area and moved his family to what was then rural California—to the egg basket of the State, Petaluma. There, Mary raised five children and taught at Live Oak High, the small school she started on their 22-acre ranch.

Mary's life of community service continued in the late 1980s, when she and Laure Reichel noticed the increasing number of homeless in the area and determined to obviate the problem. In 1988, they founded COTS. I was on the Petaluma City Council during this time and had the good fortune to work with Mary and Laure in facilitating the establishment of this incredible organization, dedicated to housing homeless families.

"It eventually took on a life of its own," says John Records, COTS current executive director. "It activated something in the community and it gave people the opportunity to help. It offered a way to get involved."

In a town of 55,000 residents, the nonprofit registered more than 50,000 volunteer hours last year alone. These volunteers helped prepare and serve more than 100,000 meals besides working on other programs the facility offers.

The community embraced COTS because Mary set an example, volunteering for countless tasks and remaining on the board of directors.

"Even as she aged and became less strong, she continued to be involved," Records notes.

In 2004, COTS recognized Mary's vision and commitment by naming its new housing facility in her honor—the Mary Isaaks Center. The center houses beds for 300, provides be-

tween 50,000 and 100,000 bed-nights per year, and its kitchen offer more than half a million pounds of food each year to the hungry and homeless of Petaluma. Other programs thrive, as well. For example, recently COTS added an innovative pilot trauma center to its services.

Madam Speaker, it is impossible to measure the impact Mary Isaak's work has had on the individuals—both homeless and volunteers—and on the community of my hometown of Petaluma. She leaves to the community a legacy of compassion and involvement that the world would do well to follow. She will be greatly missed.

#### INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO UPGRADE THE SECURITY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

#### HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today, along with my colleague Mr. ROSKAM, I am introducing legislation requiring the Social Security Administration to develop secure Social Security cards to combat the rising problem of identity theft and immigration fraud.

Since Social Security started in 1935, more than 450 million Social Security cards have been issued. Over the years, we've had 50 card variations, but all have one common element—they are too easy to counterfeit.

According to a 2005 Government Accountability Office report, employers reported the use of 1.4 million Social Security numbers that don't exist. Additionally, nearly 1.7 million numbers have been used by multiple individuals, some as many as 500 times or more.

In 2006, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials made 1,272 arrests for identity and benefit fraud. While there is no central database for confiscated fraudulent Social Security card statistics, regional illegal document rings illustrate a systemic problem.

Last April, Federal agents arrested 23 individuals and broke up an illegal document ring in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago. Officials estimated that up to 100 fake Social Security cards were issued each day at the location. According to the Northern Illinois U.S. Attorney's Office, the enterprise netted \$3 million per year for a violent Mexico-based crime syndicate.

ICE broke up a similar ring in the same neighborhood in December 2005. Last October, Cook County Sheriff's detectives arrested two individuals for manufacturing hundreds of fake identification documents in Chicago's West Lawn neighborhood. Outside of the Chicago area, one ICE raid in Washington, DC, netted 880 fake Social Security cards.

In Waukegan, police raids discovered numerous crimes of identity theft, including criminals purchasing homes and cars with stolen Social Security numbers. For as little as \$100, an individual in Waukegan can purchase a fake Social Security card.

It's time we upgrade Social Security cards with photos and biometric data like a fingerprint to protect seniors from identity theft and prevent draining of Social Security trust funds.

Many government agencies already use secure IDs, including the Department of De-

fense. An ID with a bar code embedded with biometric data, as well as a picture, will help prevent counterfeiting. We have the technology now—there is no excuse to use a document that anyone can forge at a Kinkos.

To protect seniors, fight identity theft and defend our homeland, I urge my colleagues to join this effort.

#### HONORING TOM H. SPARKS

#### HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Tom H. Sparks of St. Joseph, Michigan, who is celebrating his 100th birthday.

Mr. Sparks was born in a log cabin with a dirt floor and sod roof in Oklahoma in 1908. He was taken out of school at the age of 14 when he went to work to support his family. He was a member of the "Greatest Generation" and served his country with distinction and honor in World War II in the European Theatre.

Mr. Sparks has been a resident of St. Joseph, Michigan for more than 80 years. To say that Tom Sparks is a man who has been active in his community would be a gross understatement. Mr. Sparks has rarely missed a meeting of the St. Joseph City Commission over the last eight decades. He was first elected to serve on the St. Joseph City Commission in 1948 and served as Mayor of his adopted hometown from 1955 to 1963. Even into his 90s—his name appeared on the ballot seeking a seat on the City Commission.

Mr. Sparks retired from the City of Benton Harbor as assistant to the superintendent and a building inspector in 1975 at the age of 67. As part of his birthday celebration, it is fitting he is being recognized by City Commissioners in St. Joseph.

#### FREEDOM FOR CARLOS MARTÍN GOMEZ

#### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about Carlos Martín Gomez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba who continues his struggle to bring human rights and dignity to the people of Cuba.

In 2000 Cuban regime thugs arrested Mr. Martín for "desecrating" the thug-in-chief Fidel Castro. How exactly does one desecrate a tyrannical despot? In Mr. Martín's case by going to the Jose Martí Airport and calling out loud for the end of Fidel Castro's oppression of the Cuban people. Such a brave act earned Mr. Martín a 4-year sentence in the gulag.

The regime may have thought they could quiet Mr. Martín's calls for the end to the dictatorship by throwing him into a prison to suffer under unbearable conditions. But Mr. Martín would not let the walls of the gulag suffocate his continued calls for a free Cuba. Because of his continued crusade to bring freedom to

the Cuban people, the regime added somewhere between 14 years and 37 years to his sentence.

Now the dictatorship is trying a different tactic to silence Mr. Martin, they are refusing to provide him with adequate medical care after a fish bone got caught in his throat. According to his sister, Mr. Martin has lost considerable weight as he is only able to ingest liquids due to his untreated throat condition.

Despite the gangster tactics and heinous threats against him, Mr. Martin refuses to back down and be silenced by the totalitarian regime. He still bravely continues to demand human rights and dignity for the Cuban people. On November 5, 2007, Mr. Martin released the following statement for the Cuban people from his prison:

Cuba is a big prison which the regime has filled with prisons, poverty, famine and disease. The communist thugs have subjected us to this for 48 years. Hopefully, soon we will see freedom in the beautiful land of our birth, and that nobody has to flee . . . I reiterate my affection, respect and love, from the No. 3 cell of the Melena del Sur prison, in Havana province, to all who in one form or another, struggle for the independence and freedom of Cuba.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that Carlos Martin Gomez is locked in a filthy dungeon for calling for human rights and freedom for the Cuban people. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Carlos Martin Gomez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING DELMER WALLEN, SR.

### HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Delmer Wallen, Sr., a true asset to the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who passed away January 28, 2008.

Delmer Wallen, Sr. lived a life of service and entrepreneurship, and was known by all for his compassion to all those around him.

He was born in Kyles Ford, Hancock County, Tennessee and lived in Kingsport for most of his life. Mr. Wallen was employed as president and general manager of Kingsport Grocery Company thirty-two years. He was in the wholesale grocery business for forty years managing multiple companies.

A great community leader, Delmer Wallen, Sr. served on numerous boards including Holston Valley Community Hospital and the Salvation Army in Kingsport, Tennessee.

In 1986 Delmer served as president of the Harlan County, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Sullivan County Republican party which further shows his commitment to the community that he lived in.

Delmer was also a fifty-year member of the American Legion and served this great country in the Korean War as a member of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Delmer also showed his commitment to his faith by regularly attending West View Primitive Baptist Church. During his time spent with West View Primitive Baptist Church, Delmer served in various positions such as church treasurer and adult Sunday school teacher.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Delmer Wallen, Sr. He was a dedicated member of the community, the church, and the United States and a true friend of the First District. His service is greatly treasured and he will be deeply missed.

HONORING RETIRING WEST SEN-  
ECA TOWN COUNCILMAN CRAIG  
HICKS

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the public career of Craig Hicks.

As a councilman to the Town of West Seneca, a thriving community of 46,000 hard-working residents, Craig spent a great deal of time protecting their ideals and values. During his tenure the town continued its rich heritage and continues to develop into a town of great commercial growth, providing a kind atmosphere to live, work and raise a family. This remained possible as a result of all of the hard work of the town's public officials, and Craig's efforts as a member of the town board demonstrate that commitment.

Madam Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in extending appreciation to Craig Hicks for his dedicated service and commitment to his community. We wish Craig and his entire family only the very best of health and happiness long in the future.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING  
OF THE STEVEN E. COPELAND  
GOVERNMENT CENTER

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the grand opening of the Steven E. Copeland Government Center in Cross Roads, Texas in Denton County. The grand opening for this new facility is Friday, February 22, 2008.

The center is named in honor of the late Steven Everett Copeland, an enthusiastic employee of Denton County Road and Bridge East. Mr. Copeland is remembered by his fellow workers and supervisors as a person who took pride in a job done well and was dedicated to giving his best to the citizens of Denton County. This center is dedicated to honor both his memory and his contributions to the local community.

This center will provide the citizens of Denton County increased access to county services and local government officials, including the County Commissioner for Precinct 1, Constable, County Clerk, Justice of the Peace, Tax Assessor, Probation Officers, and the Denton County Sheriff. Many local officials have already moved into the new facility, saying it allows them to be closer to their constituents and provides more efficient access for the public. Local residents are able to pay county taxes, register vehicles, and receive new license plates for their vehicles.

Along with these government offices, the Steven E. Copeland Government Center will also house a community room which is available to the public for use. Denton County has committed itself to providing the best for its citizens, and this new center is a shining example of that commitment.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Denton County Commissioner Cynthia White and the Commissioners Court on the opening of this facility. I am proud to represent Denton County in the 26th District of Texas and look forward to seeing the positive effects this center will have on the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional district.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

- (1) Rollcall No. 29: "Yes" on Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 867;
- (2) Rollcall No. 30: "Yes" on Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 942;
- (3) Rollcall No. 31: "Yes" on Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 943.

HONORING SY LENZ, OF SONOMA,  
CALIFORNIA

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise, along with Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize the gentleman honored by the City of Sonoma as 2008 Alcalde—Honorary Mayor of the Year—Sy Lenz. The honorary position of Alcalde has been bestowed each year since 1975 on a person who has enhanced the welfare of Sonoma by his or her unselfish contributions to the community.

As Alcalde, Sy will be given a silver-headed cane as a symbol of his distinction and will appear in parades, grand openings and other special events throughout the year.

Although Sy and his wife, Harriet, have lived in Sonoma since 1989, when they moved here to be near their daughter, Sy leapt directly into community service. He used his talents as a retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Colonel and executive recruiter to volunteer on the strategic plan for the local school district. He also became active in the Kiwanis Club and with La Luz Center, a local nonprofit serving immigrants, as well as founding and developing Congregation Shir Shalom.

"One project I worked on was an attempt to establish an in-town teen club," Sy says. "We raised thousands of dollars hopefully to find a site, and although it remained out of our reach, it lead to the creation of the 'No-Name Café' at Sonoma Valley High School."

Sy's service is not limited to the younger generation. He has participated in delivering

holiday meals to seniors and shut-ins, and was part of the effort to create the Senior Shade Program which provides senior citizens transportation to and from the town's holiday parades and a shady place from which to watch.

Most recently, Sy has served as president of the board of directors of SOS—Sonoma Overnight Shelter—which he and other members of the community started in an effort to extend a helping hand to the homeless and working poor who need assistance with restoring their self-sufficiency. It is a project he has dedicated himself to.

First of all, Sy points out, it is a shelter; it is designed for those who are temporarily homeless. "Most of the time the people we're dealing with are women or single moms," says Sy. These are usually women who have been dependent upon a man and suddenly find themselves alone or alone with children and without life skills needed for independent living. They may stay with family or friends for awhile until that becomes untenable and then they are out on the streets.

"And this," Sy says, referring to the astronomical Bay Area real estate prices, "is a tough place to find an affordable space."

His compassionate service is one reason Sonoma Mayor Joanne Sanders chose Sy for Alcalde. She has known Sy for 20 years and says, "When it's driving rain, late at night, and the phone rings, he's the kind of guy who'll go out and find a place for someone to stay. He's an unsung hero."

Madam Speaker, we would like to join with the City of Sonoma in recognizing the contributions Sy Lenz has made to the lives of the residents of the Sonoma Valley area.

#### HONORING SY LENZ

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Madam Speaker, we would like to join with the City of Sonoma in recognizing the contributions Sy Lenz has made to the lives of the residents of the Sonoma Valley area.

#### COMMEMORATING THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE—

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Day of Remembrance. February 19th, 2008 marks the 66th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the incarceration of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese, Italian and German ancestry. This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which formally acknowledged and apologized for violations of fundamental civil liberties and constitutional rights of the Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II.

The Day of Remembrance is of particular importance to me as I spent part of my childhood in Amache, an internment camp in southeastern Colorado. My experiences at Amache helped shape my outlook on life and influenced my political beliefs.

The purpose of the Day of Remembrance is to learn from our nation's past transgressions. In 1942, our nation's leaders failed us. Some 120,000 people were taken from their homes and incarcerated, simply because of their ancestry. Those incarcerated were denied their rights as lawful U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents.

Though the Day of Remembrance has been established to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the restriction, exclusion, and internment of individuals and families during World War II, we must continue to work to educate the public about the internment of Americans in order to prevent similar injustices from ever happening again. We must not allow history to repeat itself.

In this post-9/11 world, it is imperative that we remain vigilant in the protection of our civil liberties. As we continue to fight the war against terrorism, we must reaffirm our commitment to the civil liberties granted in the Constitution and resist the urge to give into wartime hysteria. Falling victim to the same kind of racial prejudice and discrimination exhibited during World War II completely disregards the lessons of the war and the purpose of a Day of Remembrance. I am hopeful that my colleagues in both chambers will appropriate funds for Public Law 109-441 to ensure the historic preservation of Japanese American internment sites.

Although the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 formally apologizes for violating the rights of Japanese Americans during World War II, we must not forget about the experience of Japanese Latin Americans who were also unjustly treated. These people were extricated from Latin America and brought to the United States, only to have their documents taken away from them. Without proper documentation, these Japanese Latin Americans became individuals without a country and were subsequently used as pawns in exchange for POWs in the Pacific theater. H.R. 662, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act, seeks to rectify the injustices committed against these Japanese Latin Americans by establishing a Commission to investigate the relocation, internment, and deportations of Japanese Latin Americans and to recommend appropriate actions. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor H.R. 662 to continue the healing process started by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Now, more than ever, we must strive to balance our cherished civil liberties with the need to protect our homeland. Finding this balance is the enduring lesson that the Day of Remembrance teaches us and a lesson that cannot be lost on our nation's policymakers.

#### LEE BOTTS—

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to honor one of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens. I have known Lee Botts for many years, and she is one of the most active and involved citizens I have ever known, especially when it comes to her service to protecting the Great Lakes and Lake Michigan's National Lakeshore. Today, Lee is celebrating a milestone, her 80th birthday. In her honor, a celebration will be taking place on Thursday, February 21, 2008, at the Metropolitan Club in Chicago, Illinois.

Lee Botts spent her childhood in Kansas and Oklahoma, and as a young woman, Lee

moved with her four children to Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. In Chicago, Lee became active in neighborhood associations, such as the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference, and became active in the preservation of the Great Lakes. In 1966, Lee participated in the campaign to acknowledge the Indiana Dunes as a National Lakeshore. While Lee was active in the protection of the lakeshore, she was also a columnist for the Hyde Park Herald, a weekly community publication of which she later became the editor. As well as being active in community press, Lee also established the Hyde Park Garden Fair, which is still held on an annual basis. In the late 1960s, Lee also became a staff member of the Openlands Project in Chicago, an organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing public open space around Chicago and northern Illinois.

In 1971, Lee founded the Lake Michigan Federation, known today as the Alliance for the Great Lakes. The Federation was the first independent citizen organization dedicated to the preservation of a specific Great Lake. As the leader of the Federation, Lee became dedicated to protecting the lakeshore and actively lobbied Congress to tackle issues of environmental protection, focusing on the first federal Clean Water Act. Because of her dedication to the environment, Lee served on the staff of the Environmental Protection Agency for several years when the agency was in its infancy, and in 1977 was appointed by President Carter as the head of the Great Lakes Basin Commission, headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Following this position, Lee worked with Mayor Harold Washington and the city of Chicago as a staff member and consultant for the city's newly developed Department of the Environment.

Lee also founded the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center, a summer camp offering children of U.S. Steel employees an opportunity to learn about the environment and the necessity of its preservation. In addition to the numerous organizations Lee founded, she also made time to serve in various capacities at several other organizations, such as the Save the Dunes Council, the Northwest Indiana Quality of Life Council, Great Lakes United, the State of Illinois' Task Force of Global Climate Change, the State of Indiana Water Pollution Control Board, Chicago Wilderness, and the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission.

Madam Speaker, Lee Botts has given her time and efforts selflessly to the protection of our environment and lakeshore throughout her many years of service. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending her for her lifetime of service and dedication to her community. I also ask that you join me in wishing her a very happy 80th birthday.

#### SUNSET MEMORIAL

#### HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with another Sunset Memorial.

It is February 13, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before

the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that we lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,805 days since the tragic judicial fiat called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the Declaration, not the casual notion, but the Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have been given them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,805 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that this Nation is great enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we hear the cries of the unborn at last. May that be the day we

find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 13, 2008—12,805 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of free and the home of the brave.

#### RECOVERY REBATES AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, from negative economic data on wages and consumer prices to a falling stock market, there is almost no margin for error in today's tight economy. We face an urgency and a mutual obligation to get it right and ensure no American is forced to live in those margins.

Today's economy weighs very heavily on America's families—and lately, things have gone from bad to worse. In December, the unemployment rate shot up to a 2-year high of 5 percent. December's sales and consumer confidence were at a 5-year low. Oil prices topped \$100 a barrel, and home foreclosures are at an alltime high. And growth last quarter slowed to a glacial .6 percent.

This legislation represents a strong bipartisan agreement on an economic stimulus package that will begin to provide financial relief and income security to the middle class working Americans most at risk in a prospective recession. The Senate voted 18–16 in favor of the package to jumpstart our slowing economy and create jobs here at home, and I am proud of our quick action in both houses to get this done.

Last week, the House approved strong stimulus legislation, and this version continues in that spirit with two additions expanding recovery rebates to an additional 20 million seniors and 250,000 disabled veterans. Our men and women in uniform fought for our Nation, and they deserve all the respect, care and support we can provide.

Building on our work to extend the Child Tax Credit—and my belief that all hard-working low- and middle-income families should receive at least a partial credit—this package will ensure that any family that pays taxes and earned at least \$3000 last year, will get a \$300 rebate per child.

The bill provides refundable child tax credit rebates to approximately 34.2 million children. Families with children will receive a total of \$21.8 billion in refundable rebates, including \$9.8 billion specifically in refundable child tax credits.

It is long past time we finally recognize that the child tax credit should be available to all families, including those who serve in the military.

With the economy in so much difficulty, this is the right approach—immediate, focused on those who need resources and who will spend it. Unlike previous efforts to stimulate the economy, this package is focused on the

middle class and provides real, not token relief. That includes \$28 billion in tax relief for 35 million families who work but make too little to pay income taxes—families who otherwise would not have been included in this recovery effort, more than 19 million of them with children.

To meet our obligation, to boost our struggling economy, and provide real assistance for working and middle-class Americans, I urge a "yes" vote.

#### COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased that today the House passed H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act. This bill makes great strides towards helping our Nation's students and families afford college.

The rising cost of college is making the opportunity of a quality education further and further out of reach for far too many of our students. In March, the University of California and California State system raised their tuition for the fifth time in 6 years. This year, students at a school like Sonoma State, in my district, will be required to pay nearly 10 percent more for tuition. With recent budget shortfalls in many States, including California, more increases in tuition appear to be on the horizon. The Federal Government, States, and universities need to work together to both control costs and provide better access to financial aid to ensure that everyone has the chance for a college education.

This bill will help with both college costs and financial aid for our neediest students, and that's why it's such an important bill. Through this bill, States will be encouraged to do their part in keeping college costs down, and universities will be encouraged to be more transparent with important information like projected tuition and fees and average financial aid. This will help ensure that students and their families are not caught unaware by college costs. This bill also assists our Nation's neediest students by increasing the maximum Pell Grant that can be awarded and giving more non-traditional students access to this important source of aid. In addition, this bill encourages more students to go into important fields that serve the public interest, such as teaching, nursing, and firefighting, by offering loan forgiveness in exchange for their invaluable service.

Particularly pleasing is the inclusion of three programs that I championed and which should make a real difference in the lives of our Nation's students. The first is the Patsy T. Mink Fellowships, which will provide fellowships to women and minorities to help them attain graduate degrees in underrepresented fields. This program will encourage more women and minorities to go into underrepresented fields, and at the same time, will increase the amount of women and minorities who become professors in these fields. Congresswoman Patsy Mink was my mentor and friend and was a leader on women's equality and opportunity. This program is in honor of her work on

the inclusion of Title IX in the Higher Education Act and will further ensure equality in higher education.

As a former human resources manager, I know that it can be difficult to find workers to fill all the empty positions. Often, applicants don't have the necessary skills or background to fill available positions. It's critical that we find a way to provide our workforce with the skills and education to fill the gaps. That's why programs like Bridges from Jobs to Careers and Business Workforce Partnerships, which I also championed, are so important.

The Bridges from Jobs to Careers grant program will provide competitive grants to community colleges to improve remedial education by customizing programs to the career and academic goals of students and making it possible for students to move more quickly through remedial classes and to courses related to their degree, certificate program, or career. We need to help students realize the end goal of their education program. Helping schools improve remedial education will help many students get in and out of school with the skills and education they need to succeed.

The Business Workforce Partnerships grant program will encourage the development of partnerships between colleges and businesses to work together to provide workers with for-credit worksite learning opportunities and more flexible schedules. By allowing workers to work and attend school, more of them will have access to the certificates and degrees that will lead to better jobs and higher salaries. These workers will also be able to better fit the needs of our changing workforce.

Thank you, Chairmen MILLER and HINOJOSA, for your leadership on the Higher Education Reauthorization Act. I look forward to working with you and our colleagues to continue to make college more affordable for our Nation's students.

#### HONORING RETIRING MARILLA TOWN SUPERVISOR JOHN FOSS

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the years of faithful public service of John Foss, retiring Supervisor of the Town of Marilla.

Madam Speaker, John Foss is a lot of things, and a lot of adjectives describe him well. Intelligent, committed and focused on the continued growth and improvement of his hometown, John Foss labored hard on behalf of his constituents, and he has the results to show for it.

I have had the pleasure of knowing John way back to the mid-1990s, when as a candidate for the New York State Assembly, John welcomed me to Marilla and introduced me to dozens of his neighbors—local residents and farmers with concerns about the agricultural industry in Erie County and New York State. John's friendship was critical to me in those days and his steadfast support for our efforts to revitalize the economy of Erie County and Western New York remain important to this very day.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the public service career of retiring

Marilla Town Supervisor John Foss, and join me in wishing John and his entire family the very best of good luck and Godspeed as they embark upon this new chapter of their lives, active in the public affairs of the town of Marilla, but outside the formal role of Supervisor. Congratulations, John, on a job very well done.

#### CONGRATULATING ROCK THE BOAT ON HIS SUCCESS AT THE WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Ch. Pinecrest Orchard Hill Rock the Boat at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Rock the Boat, better known as Rocky, earned the "Best-in-Breed" title among the Cavalier King Charles Spaniels on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, for the second consecutive year.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels are a part of the toy group, which encompasses twenty-three breeds. The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs, limits entry to 2,500 dogs. Rocky won best-in-breed in his category after going up against a field of thirty-five entrants, and was one of only 169 dogs to receive this honor for 2008.

This triumph is the most recent in a string of successes for Rocky and his owners. In his brief show career, Rocky has accumulated six all-breed Best in Show wins, over thirty Toy Group wins, seven Specialty Best of Breed wins and eight Best in Show wins at the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, USA Specialties, making him the American Kennel Club's #1 Cavalier. His list of achievements is only made more impressive by the fact that he is not yet three years old.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Rocky, as well as his breeder, owners, and trainer, for his many impressive accomplishments. It is an honor to have such a celebrated canine reside in the 26th District of Texas. I look forward to seeing what the future brings for the talented Rocky.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, January 23, 2008, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. I would like to make a correction to my earlier explanation of my missed votes on January 23, 2008.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 21: "yes." On Ordering the Previous Question.

(2) Rollcall No. 22: "yes." On Motion to Pass H.R. 3963, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES  
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-  
TIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE  
HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, Representative TOM LANTOS (D-CA) was the personification of America at her best. During his nearly 28 years in office, TOM was a champion for human rights and social justice around the world. As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and co-founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, TOM was dedicated to securing the freedom and liberty he treasured for all people.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, TOM was a member of the anti-Nazi resistance movement and escaped Nazi labor camps twice. The war took most of his family and with the help of a brave Hungarian diplomat, he and his wife, Annette, arrived in America penniless with little aside from painful memories of the war, and an unparalleled determination to prevent the repetition of the atrocities he had seen.

After winning election to the House in 1980, TOM quickly showed himself to be an undisputed authority on foreign policy. His eloquence and passion made him a natural leader as he forged alliances where no one else could. In accord with his commitment to human rights, he was one of the first to sound the alarm on the ethnic killings in Dafur. And he was one of five members of Congress arrested for protesting outside the Sudanese Embassy.

Representative TOM LANTOS is survived by his wife of nearly 58 years, their two daughters and 18 grandchildren. His daughter Annette and her beautiful family are constituents of mine as well as personal friends. My condolences go out to her, TOM's other daughter Katrina and his beautiful wife, Annette. TOM LANTOS will be remembered for his courage, inspiration and compassion. TOM, we all loved and respected you. We will continue your ceaseless fight to keep America true to her conscience.

RECOGNITION OF CATHY TRAVIS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the contributions of a great public servant, Cathy Travis, on the occasion of her retirement from the staff of Congressman SOLOMON ORTIZ and the House of Representatives. On January 1, 2008, after more than 25 years on the Hill, Cathy retired from her position as the senior advisor to Congressman ORTIZ.

Through her dedication and diligence, Cathy also enabled me to maximize my efficiency as the chairwoman of the Texas Democratic congressional delegation. For that, I am grateful.

A native of Jonesboro, Arkansas, Cathy graduated from Arkansas State University with a bachelor's degree in public relations and an emphasis in political science. Politics always fascinated her, and after graduation, she went to work for former Congressman Bill Alexander (D-Arkansas) as a press assistant. She also worked on the floor of the House of Representatives, for the Office of the House Majority Whip, and on numerous political campaigns. She performed all assignments with a sense of humor, a sense of duty and above all, a sense of patriotism.

Since the early 1990s, Cathy Travis saw a need for more educational tools to give the American people a better understanding of how our Government works and the fundamental rights accorded by the Constitution. Thus was born her book, *Constitution Translated for Kids*, an accessible translation of the document that serves as the foundation of the United States Government. The original text is paired side-by-side with a kid-friendly interpretation to pique interest and stimulate further discussion of American liberties. It also includes a discussion of proposed amendments to the Constitution that have been strongly debated, and a detailed explanation on the separation of powers.

Cathy Travis is a dedicated American in the finest tradition, and this institution will greatly miss her.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE HOWELL

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a father, husband, and soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of the Nation. U.S. Army PFC George Howell was from the small rural central California community of Prunedale. He was a humble man who devoted his life to his family.

George enlisted into the Army in June 2007, and was deployed to Iraq in September 2007, where he fought valiantly as an infantry soldier in the 10th Mountain Division. He fought not only to give freedom to the people of Iraq, but to offer a better life to his family. He was a soldier who rose to defend his country and a young father who rose to provide for his young children. He dedicated his life so that others can live in a future filled with hope.

On December 21, 2007, George was fatally wounded when his unit was attacked while on patrol in northern Iraq. He was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on January 25, 2008. George was awarded a Purple Heart and the Army Service Ribbon for his courageous service. These awards depict the greatness of this fine soldier and symbolize the sincere gratitude of this country. Moreover, George's life has inspired the lives of others and has united a community. This soldier, father, and husband shall be remembered for his caring, altruistic life.

Held closest to George's heart is the love and support of his wife, and partner, Kristen, and his two young children, Niya, Raiden, and his yet to be born child. His dream and lifework was his family, and he fought to offer them a life filled with limitless opportunity. In the future, his family will experience the dream their father has waiting for them.

Madam Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in extending our deepest sympathies to PFC George Howell's family. While we praise his service and sacrifice for his country, we must never forget the deep personal tragedy of a wife losing her husband and of children losing their father. They are all great American heroes who deserve this Nation's recognition, gratitude, and support.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY  
OF REMEMBRANCE

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 66th anniversary of the National "Day of Remembrance."

I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific Islander American Caucus and to represent a large number of individuals of Japanese descent in the 32nd District.

The internment of Japanese Americans during World War II is one of our government's most shameful actions. Families were ripped from their homes and communities, even while many Japanese citizens served in the U.S. armed forces in World War II.

We cannot sit back and allow similar civil and human rights violations unfold before our eyes. We must remember that any oppression, any injustice, any hatred, is a wedge designed to attack our civilization.

We must remember, and more importantly, we must learn from our past.

SMITHSONIAN FREE ADMISSION  
ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Smithsonian Free Admission Act to reinforce 160 years of consistent Smithsonian policy, admitting the public to all permanent exhibits without charge. That policy is embodied in the original intent of the founder's gift to the federal government that the Smithsonian be established to increase the knowledge of the public. The first bill establishing the Smithsonian, introduced by Senator William C. Preston on February 17, 1841, stated explicitly that the Smithsonian would "preserve and exhibit with no fee all" works of art and science. This intent and tradition was interrupted by the Board of Regents with the casual comment that this would be the first time admission fees would be charged and was done without notice to anyone when the Regents voted, on January 29, 2007, to institute the first fees in the history of the Smithsonian. The Congress and not the Regents should decide so basic a policy, especially when it departs from longstanding public policy. The admission fee sets a precedent for future permanent exhibits and makes it impossible to deny the other Smithsonian entities the same privilege and may encourage other Smithsonian entities to structure their exhibits to fit the Buttrick Pavilion model.

Legislation, therefore, has become necessary and urgent as the Butterfly Pavilion is set to open on February 14, 2008. Although the Smithsonian has previously charged fees for films and shows, such as IMAX films, the National Air and Space Museum's Planetarium, and the National Zoo's Christmas Light special, the Butterfly Pavilion marks the first time admission fees are charged for a permanent exhibit.

The Smithsonian Institution had an estimated 24.2 million visitors in 2007. The huge number of visitors who come to the Smithsonian's 17 museums and art galleries shows that there are untapped sources of revenue from appreciative Americans and others if the Smithsonian had a first-rate private fundraising effort similar to that of the great museums in this country and worldwide. Our previously introduced bill, H.R. 4098, The Smithsonian Modernization Act of 2007, addresses the Smithsonian's shallow fundraising capacity by restructuring and expanding the Smithsonian Board of Regents from a board almost half of whom are public officials to a board consisting solely of private sector citizens with greater fundraising capacity and experience.

Today the Smithsonian's traditional free access to exhibits is under attack, chiefly because of the \$2 billion dollar infrastructure backlog. However, the fundraising capability of the Smithsonian infrastructure is clear in the recent opening of the National Portrait Gallery, according to Congressional Research Service (CRS) RL 33560, donors contributed funds for the new auditorium and roof over the courtyard.

The Smithsonian Modernization Act, not admission fees, provides the most realistic vehicle to raise funds for the Smithsonian without cost to the government or to the public. The Smithsonian has long prided itself on "free access" according to the CRS. Admission fees can bring only a token amount. Admission fees are not the answer for American taxpayers, who have already paid through the 70% that the federal government already contributes to this public institution. Federal taxpayers don't expect to pay again through a admission fee to a federally financed institution.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5268, TO PROVIDE A TEMPORARY INCREASE IN FEDERAL MEDICAID ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM TO STATES

### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, last week I, with my colleagues Representatives FRANK PALLONE and PETER KING, introduced H.R. 5268, legislation that would provide immediate fiscal relief to States through Medicaid. The States of our Nation and the healthcare safety net are simultaneously facing a crisis. This is not the time for the Federal Government to turn its back. In addition to the broader economic stimulus package that we have approved, it is urgent that we provide States with resources to meet growing healthcare demands.

In 2003, during the last economic downturn, the Federal Government provided fiscal relief to States by increasing Federal Medicaid payments during five quarters. The increased Federal Medicaid payments helped States meet increased demand for Medicaid coverage and successfully fought off many additional and more extensive reductions in healthcare for poor children, the disabled, pregnant women and the elderly who depend on Medicaid health coverage. If the economic downturn continues, States will once again be forced to deny people Medicaid coverage and or reduce Medicaid payments to healthcare providers unless some relief is provided.

If we do not act, the decreased ability to provide health care could mean even more job losses, further exacerbating the economy. According to a 2005 study, for every \$1 million of State funds invested in Medicaid, 33 new jobs and \$1.23 million in new wages are generated in a year. In 2003, a Republican Congress and President agreed to the temporary increase in Medicaid payments. It was enacted through a number of bipartisan votes. We must once again come together to deliver as we did before. We need to move quickly to strengthen Medicaid, before the effects of a slowing economy cause people who need health care to be turned away.

### HONORING ROB COGORNO

#### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rob Cogorno on his 25 years of service to this body.

Rob, I am one of the new folks around here, but in my relatively brief tenure, I have come to appreciate and have great respect for all the floor staff who keep this place running as smoothly as possible . . . especially in a room filled with wall-to-wall politicians.

You've been a great quarterback for the floor staff, and I wish you all the best. Thank you for your service.

HONORING RETIRING WEST SEN- ECA TOWN COUNCILMAN CHRISTOPHER OSMANSKI

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Christopher Osmanski, retiring councilman from the great town of West Seneca.

I have known Chris and his family for many years and I am proud to honor his dedication to effective public service for the residents of the Town of West Seneca. Few public officials love their town the way in which Christopher Osmanski does, and his public acts have always had the intention of making life in the town of West Seneca better for those so fortunate enough to live there.

While Chris's official service has come to an end, it is a virtual certainty that he will remain active in local civic affairs. That is a good thing, for the town of West Seneca is better

for the active public service of individuals like Christopher Osmanski.

I want to thank you, Madam Speaker, for offering me this opportunity to honor the public service of retiring Town of West Seneca Councilman Christopher Osmanski, and I hope that you will join me in offering to Mr. Osmanski this Congress's best wishes of good fortune and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

### HONORING W.D. LEWIS FOR "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR" AWARD

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize community leader W.D. Lewis for being named "Citizen of the Year" by the Chandler-Brownsboro Chamber of Commerce.

A veteran of World War II and the Korean war, Mr. Lewis occupies his time today volunteering in his community. In addition to being an active member of the Kiwanis Club, Mr. Lewis mentors children at Brownsboro Intermediate School and helps the court appointed special advocates provide Christmas gifts to children. Last year, he raised enough money to give Bibles to 192 children.

Since moving to Brownsboro over two decades ago, Mr. Lewis has been a member of Leagueville Baptist Church and the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Mr. Lewis for generously offering his time and talents to serve his community and for being selected "Citizen of the Year."

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Congressman TOM LANTOS, our beloved friend and colleague, who passed away on Monday morning from esophageal cancer.

Believers in human rights and oppressed peoples around the world have suffered a terrible blow with the loss of TOM LANTOS. He was a tireless champion for those suffering oppression and violence and discrimination, and the world is quite simply a more painful place with his passing. Every time a human rights issue came up on the House floor, TOM was always there, speaking out for the voiceless.

TOM's experiences escaping Nazi concentration camps twice as a teenager and losing most of his immediate family in the carnage of the Holocaust cultivated in him a unique sensitivity to suffering. His compassion



and willingness to stand up for what is right was a constant inspiration to me, both in our work in the House of Representatives and in our co-chairmanship of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. He was a hero in the eyes of so many, and his loss will be felt acutely by all of us.

I extend my most sincere condolences to TOM's family, and I encourage my colleagues to take up the torch with which TOM illuminated the world's darkest corners.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF ELEPHANT BUTTE

#### HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great accomplishments of leaders of Elephant Butte, New Mexico. Mayor Bob Barnes, Councilor Adrienne Podlesny, and Councilor John Van Gundy truly care about the city of Elephant Butte. Each proudly served since the city was incorporated and are so dedicated they worked out of their homes until the city had an office.

Councilor John Van Gundy served on a planning board for the first 2 years after the city was incorporated then became elected to the council and has now served 8 years.

Both Mayor Barnes and Councilor Podlesny have both worked for the city for 10 years, and Mayor Barnes in fact became the first and only mayor of Elephant Butte.

Through their tireless work and dedication, these individuals have made countless contributions to the community of Elephant Butte. Their legacy of diligent work includes improving city parks, developing a waste water system, and incorporating the city. Other accomplishments include widening and paving city streets, building an addition to the fire department, and numerous other improvements.

The progress and growth of Elephant Butte can be attributed to the diligent hard work of these 3 individuals. I know the people of Elephant Butte have gained many more opportunities and are now able to live better lives because of the leadership and hard work of Mayor Barnes and Councilors Van Gundy and Podlesny. I want to congratulate each of them for their achievements and wish them the best of luck in their future.

#### HONORING STANLEY RONDA, JR.

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stanley Ronda, Jr., of Toledo, Ohio.

It is with the deepest appreciation that I pay tribute to the long life of a good, patient, and kind man, Stanley Ronda, Jr. He lived his years in service to his family, friends, and our Toledo community. Coming from the working class and of Polish-American heritage, he

graduated college in architecture in an era when that was a rare achievement for a family of their means. Stan was a path breaker.

He was always generous with his company, his conversation and his artistic creations. He greeted every person with a broad smile and a laugh. He was an engaging conversationalist and a patient teacher, too. He labored to transfer his considerable skills in calligraphy, architectural drafting, and model building to all who expressed an interest.

For decades, he worked for the City of Toledo in the Toledo Lucas County Planning Commissions, from where he retired. I can still see him bent over his light table in the Huron Building preparing the architectural and subdivision drawings for cases pending before the Commission. He reported to work every day, always wearing a white, long-sleeved shirt and held standards of military precision.

Once, when we worked together on a project, we were assigned to field check and map all of Monclova Township, Ohio. That is 16,000 acres. Stan and I worked on that for days. I hold many precious memories of Stan during that laborious effort.

Stan never asked anything for himself. He was always creating lovely-original works for others such as mailings at the holidays or special occasions. Each was carefully drawn and colored with his signature logo was at the lower left corner—a miniature version of him sitting at his drawing table. At Christmas, his logo would wear a tiny Santa hat. On his own initiative, Stan drew many beautiful renderings of landmark structures in Toledo. When I was elected to office, I commissioned Stan to do a rendering of historic churches of Toledo. He gladly accepted and this framed achievement always hangs in our Congressional office.

Though Stan became more fragile with years, he never, ever complained. He always welcomed a visitor with that same open smile. Stan revered the time he witnessed developments of downtown Toledo like the Maumee River Crossing Bridge, the new Ferry Landing, the future Marina District and the Mud Hens. He was overjoyed that day to view his hometown, to which he had dedicated his working years, building forward.

May God welcome Stan home; a good and faithful servant. May He shower him royally with blessings into eternity and bestow upon him a loving peace.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. HARRY JEFFREY

#### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the birth of Dr. Harry Palmer Jeffrey, Jr.

Dr. Jeffrey obtained his bachelor's degree at Dartmouth College in 1959, his master's degree at Ohio State University in 1961 and his Ph.D. at Columbia University in 1973.

In Congress, he worked for Representatives John Heinz, Paul Schenck, William McCulloch and Senator John Bricker. He served in the White House for the Lyndon Johnson and

Richard Nixon Administrations, and met every President of the United States from Herbert Hoover to Bill Clinton.

Dr. Jeffrey ran for office twice. He won the Ohio State GOP primary for the State Legislature in 1960, but lost in the general election. And in 1976, he unsuccessfully sought the GOP nomination for California's 40 District, which I now serve.

He was one of my professors when I was in college at California State University, Fullerton. He taught U.S. history and we used to debate on many issues, which helped to form my political views. He was also the faculty sponsor of my College Republican Club. We stayed in touch for all these years. In fact just recently, I visited his class at Soka University.

Dr. Jeffrey passed away November 4, 2007, and is survived by his wife, Mee-Young, his son, Robert, his step-daughter, Clara, sisters, Julie & Susu, and grandchildren, Marieke & Lex.

Please join me in remembering and honoring Dr. Jeffrey for a life spent dedicated to his family and community.

#### HONORING RETIRING CHEEKTOWAGA TOWN SUPERVISOR JAMES J. JANKOWIAK

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James J. Jankowiak, who concluded decades of faithful public service by serving one year as Supervisor of the most populous town in the 27th Congressional District, the great town of Cheektowaga.

Jim Jankowiak is, above almost anything else, a man of the people. Jim is a regular guy who worked hard, loved his family and his community, and did everything he could to give back to that community he loved so well. From his career beginnings in the highway garage to his career as the most effective Parks Commissioner in the history of Erie County government, Jim Jankowiak consistently led by example, and the taxpayers of each respective jurisdiction within which he served were better for it.

Jim's service on the local level—first as Chairman of the town's Democratic Committee and later as a Councilman and finally Supervisor, demonstrates clearly his love for the town in which he lived his life. Where I come from—in South Buffalo, NY—we like to say that we're a community of neighborhoods; South Cheektowaga is no different. Differentiated as it is by parishes or by fire districts, it's still a collection of neighborhoods, and Jim Jankowiak is, at heart, a kid from the neighborhood—and he never forgot from whence he came. That's high praise.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring and congratulating Jim Jankowiak upon the conclusion of his official service to the taxpayers of the town of Cheektowaga. I know that you join me and the rest of our colleagues in wishing Jim, his wife Donna and their entire family the very best of good luck and Godspeed in the months and years to come.

## DIRECT GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PAYMENTS UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, with my friend and colleague Congressman RON LEWIS, which will bring equity to an unjust Medicare compensation formula currently used to reimburse teaching hospitals.

Under current law, Medicare uses an antiquated formula to determine payments for hospitals with Direct Graduate Medical Education, DGME, programs designed to educate and train physicians. The formula, which was created in the 1980s no longer serves as an accurate reflection of the actual costs of operating training programs in the 21st century.

Currently, more than 600 hospitals that train physicians are paid less than the national average, meaning that Medicare pays less than its fair share for the costs of educating doctors in these hospitals. In my home State of New Jersey alone, teaching hospitals have lost about \$6.9 million.

The current system stymies these hospitals' ability to train a workforce sufficient to care for the growing Medicare population.

Despite congressional efforts in 1999 and 2001 to make incremental improvements in DGME payments, hospitals still receive only 85 percent of the cost of the national average that teaching hospitals incur today for operating costs.

Bringing the effort to fruition, this legislation requires Medicare to at least pay the average cost of operating a training program. It would increase the DGME payment—for hospitals whose historical costs are less than the national average—to 100 percent of the national average per resident amount.

The floor should be increased to the national average so no hospitals receive less than Medicare's fair share of the costs of operating a medical education program. This bill does not affect hospitals whose historical costs are above the national average.

I have introduced this measure in the interest of America's hospitals, medical students, and the Medicare patients who will one day depend on their doctors to have the highest level of training and expertise.

As it stands now, hundreds of teaching hospitals are being reimbursed by Medicare at an inadequate level for their work in training America's doctors of tomorrow. Too many hospitals, students, and patients are depend-

ing on us to equip teaching hospitals with the financing they need to produce a corps of well trained, experienced physicians.

Without it, I am concerned that these unsustainable losses are a real threat to the future of this nation's healthcare infrastructure.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation to provide a DGME level that accurately reflects of the actual costs of operating physician training programs in the 21st century.

**RICHARD HATCHER****HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to honor one of northwest Indiana's most distinguished and honorable citizens. I have known the Honorable Richard Hatcher for many years, and he is one of the most influential citizens I have ever known, especially when it comes to the progress he made for residents of northwest Indiana and the entire United States. Forty years ago, Richard was elected mayor of Gary, Indiana, and in doing so, he, along with the late Carl Stokes of Cleveland, Ohio, became the first African American individuals elected to serve as mayors of major metropolitan areas. Since this time, Richard has been a constant fixture in not only Gary, but throughout northwest Indiana. Today, as we celebrate this significant event in our Nation's history, we reflect on the magnitude of his election and the progress that has been achieved since that time. In Mayor Hatcher's honor, as well as in honor of Carl Stokes, a celebration will be taking place on Saturday, February 23, 2008, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana.

Richard Gordon Hatcher was born on July 10, 1933, in Michigan City, Indiana. Following his graduation from high school, Richard went on to complete his bachelor of science degree in business and government at Indiana University. Subsequently, he also earned his bachelor of law and juris doctorate degrees from Valparaiso University. After completing law school, Richard relocated to Gary and began practicing law in East Chicago, Indiana. This was the beginning of his remarkable legal career, which included service as a deputy prosecutor for Lake County, Indiana. From there, his political career began when he was elected to the Gary City Council. Then, in 1967, he was elected mayor of Gary, the office he would hold for an astonishing 20 years.

Throughout his political career, Richard was always involved with various commissions and councils, including: the United States Conference of Mayors, for which he served as a member of the executive board and as vice president and president of the conference, the National League of Cities, the National Conference of Black Mayors, for which he was elected its first president, the National Urban Coalition, and the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, for which he served 4 years as president. He also received Presidential appointments to serve on two commissions: the United States Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and the United States Commission on Education. Richard has also had a great impact on American society through his involvement with several civil rights organizations, both locally and nationally, including: the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, TransAfrica, the National Civil Rights Hall of Fame, the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social Change, and the Operation PUSH/Rainbow Coalition.

Throughout his illustrious career, Richard has been honored time and time again for his dedication and steadfast efforts in improving the quality of life for all people. To name a few of his accolades, Richard was honored in 1974, by Time magazine as one of the "200 Outstanding Young Leaders in the United States," as well as one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans" by Ebony magazine. He was also awarded the "President's Award" by the National League of Cities in 1987, the "Adam Clayton Powell Award" by the Congressional Black Caucus in 1977, the Operation PUSH "Award of Excellence" in 1980, and the Roy Wilkins Award from the NAACP in 1989. In addition, he has been honored with the "Urban Leadership Award" by the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, the "Distinguished Mayor Award" by the National Urban Coalition, and the "Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom Award" from the National Conference of Black Mayors.

Madam Speaker, through his election as mayor of Gary in 1967, Richard Hatcher has been a cornerstone in the building of a better America. He has continued his efforts toward progress through the many ways he has selflessly given his time and efforts to the people of Gary, northwest Indiana, and beyond. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him, as well as the late Carl Stokes, on their 40th anniversary of this significant event in our Nation's history, as well as for his lifetime of service and dedication to his community.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## FEBRUARY 21

10 a.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations.

SD-226

## FEBRUARY 26

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of the Army, and the future years defense program.

SH-216

10 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine U.S. oil inventory policies, focusing on the Department of Energy's Strategic Petroleum Reserve Project Management Office policies.

SD-366

## FEBRUARY 27

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session in S-407 following the open session.

SD-106

9:45 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stanley C. Suboleski, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy), and J. Gregory Copeland, of Texas, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of Energy.

SD-366

10 a.m.

## Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

2:30 p.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

## Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 2229, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Wyoming Range from leasing and provide an opportunity to retire certain leases in the Wyoming Range, S. 2379, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to cancel certain grazing leases on land in Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument that are voluntarily waived by the lessees, to provide for the exchange of certain Monument land in exchange for private land, to designate certain Monument land as wilderness, S. 832, to provide for the sale of approximately 25 acres of public land to the Turnabout Ranch, Escalante, Utah, at fair market value, S. 2508 and H.R. 903, bills to provide for a study of options for protecting the open space characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, S. 2601 and H.R. 1285, bills to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to King and Kittitas Counties Fire District No. 51 a certain parcel of real property for use as a site for a new Snoqualmie Pass fire and rescue station, H.R. 523, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Wells Hydroelectric Project of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, to the utility district, and H.R. 838, to provide for the conveyance of the Bureau of Land Management parcels known as the White Acre and Gambel Oak properties and related real property to Park City, Utah.

SD-366

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

## Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the National Space and Aeronautics Administration (NASA).

SR-253

## Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH-219

## FEBRUARY 28

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, for the Department of the Navy, and the future years defense program; with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 immediately following the open session.

SH-216

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the impact of increased minimum wages on the economies of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SD-366

## MARCH 5

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, for the Department of the Air Force, and the future years defense program.

SH-216

## MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Southern and Northern Command, and the future years defense program.

SH-216

## MARCH 11

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces in Korea, and the future years defense program.

SH-216

## MARCH 12

2:30 p.m.

## Armed Services

## Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine technologies to combat weapons of mass destruction.

SD-106

## Armed Services

## Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, the future years defense program, and military installation, environmental, and base closure programs.

SR-232A

## MARCH 13

2:30 p.m.

## Armed Services

## Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and the Proliferation Security Initiative at the Department of Defense, and nuclear nonproliferation programs at the National Security Administration, and the future years defense program.

SR-222